

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 SCCT-01 SS-15 SIL-01

LAB-04 EB-07 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 /057 W

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O 062215Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9281

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 4067

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, CPRS, ELAB, ES

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE THREAT AGAINST US CITIZEN

REF: (A) STATE 236310

(B) SAN SALVADOR 3949

1. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN FOLLOWING THE ALCOA STRIKE SINCE ITS INCEPTION SOME THREE WEEKS AGO. ONE OF THE CAUSES OF THE WALKOUT, ACCORDING TO UNION DEMANDS, WAS THE ILLEGAL FIRING OF A WORKER BY THE PRODUCTION MANAGER, ROBERTO DAVILA (NOT DELVALLE AS NAMED REFTEL A). THE TWO SIDES TOOK THEIR RESPECTIVE CASES TO THE LABOR MINISTRY, AND THE LABOR COURT DECLARED THE STRIKE "ILLEGAL" ON SEPTEMBER 23. (FYI THE VAST MAJORITY OF LABOR DISPUTES HERE ARE DECLARED "ILLEGAL". ALTHOUGH THE GOES THEN HAS THE OPTION OF MOVING THE ILLEGAL STRIKERS OUT OF THE PLANT, PRESUMABLY AT THE REQUEST OF THE MANAGEMENT, IT VIRTUALLY NEVER DOES SO. THE GOVERNMENT NORMALLY PREFERS TO LET THE ILLEGAL STRIKES COLLAPSE OF THEIR OWN WEIGHT RATHER THAN INCUR THE IMAGE OF BEING ANTI-LABOR.)

2. THE ALCAO DISPUTE HAS NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY "MESSY" OR UNUSUAL BY LOCAL STANDARDS. ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE THREATS AND OTHER INTIMIDATIONS ARE OFTEN PERPETRATED BY ONE OR THE OTHER SIDE. THE CASE OF DAVILA, THE PRODUCTION MANAGER, IS AN EXAMPLE. FIRST OF ALL, HE WAS A SPECIAL TARGET SINCE HIS DISMISSAL WAS ONE

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OF THE ORIGINAL UNCON DEMANDS. HE RECEIVED ANONYMOUS THREATS.

HE ALSO NOTICED THAT HE WAS BEING TAILED TO HIS HOME FROM THE PLANT, EVEN THOUGH HE CHANGED AUTOMOBILES. INTIMIDATED BY THE THREATS AND HARRASSMENT, DAVILA HAS LEFT EL SALVADOR.

3. OVER THE WEEKEND, THE AMBASSADOR SPOKE WITH THE USCIT MANAGER OF THE ALCOA FACILITY. THE THREATS AGAINST HIM HAVE CONSISTED OF ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALLS TO HIS RESIDENCE AND THE PRESENCE OF THE SAME PICKUP TRUCK AND OCCUPANTS IN FRONT OF HIS RESIDENCE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THESE THREATS. THE MANAGER HAS ALREADY TAKEN PRECAUTIONS ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. WE HAVE PROVIDED HIM WITH THE USUAL ADVICE ON PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO U.S. BUSINESSMEN.

4. IT IS THE EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE LOCAL ALCOA MANAGEMENT WILL NOT DEMAND AT THIS TIME THAT THE GOES MOVE THE ILLEGAL STRIKERS OUT. HE ADVISED THAT THERE ARE SOME TECHNICALITIES STILL PENDING WITH THE DEPT OF LABOR. ALSO THE ALCOA MGR. IS FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE SITUATION FOR THE GOES. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIAL REASON THE GOES WOULD HAVE, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE RECENT ASSASSINATION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF FUSS (THE FEDERATION TO WHICH THE ALCOA UNION BELONG) (SEE REFTEL B), TO HASTILY MOVE GOVERNMENT TROOPS INTO THE MIDDLE OF THIS DISPUTE. GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL RELUCTANCE TO USE TROOPS IN LABOR DISPUTES, THE SENSITIVITIES OF FUSS AT THE PRESENT TIME, AND THE FACT THAT AN AMERICAN FIRM IS INVOLVED, OUR BEST GUESS WOULD BE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LET THIS STRIKE FOLLOW THE USUAL PATH, KEEPING ITS HANDS OFF AND HOPING THE PROBLEM WILL DISSOLVE IN TIME.

5. IT IS OBVIOUSLY DIFFICULT TO GAUGE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE THREATS THE US MANAGER HAS RECEIVED. WE DO KNOW HE IS AWARE OF THE DANGER AND IS TAKING ALL POSSIBLE PRECAUTIONS.

6 FULL BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS WILL FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM. CAMPBELL

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